Delta Ponds Project Receives Award from State Land Board

Earlier this week, the City of Eugene's Delta Ponds Enhancement Project was honored to receive a State Land Board "Stream Project Award", which recognizes responsible, sustainable stewardship of Oregon's natural resources, as well as partnerships that advance the work of the board. The award was presented by Governor John Kitzhaber, Secretary of State Kate Brown, and State Treasurer Ted Wheeler at a ceremony in Salem. City partners on the project from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the NOAA Restoration Center joined the City at the ceremony.

Treasurer Ted Wheeler congratulated the City on connecting 2.2 miles of side-channel habitat to the Willamette River, which now provides critical rearing habitat for juvenile Chinook salmon. "This is an impressive project that serves as a regional model for other organizations seeking to improve the environment along the Willamette," he said.

As part of the Delta Ponds project, the City and its various partners and volunteers:
- Created 7 acres of riparian habitat and emergent wetlands through converting 1.5 miles of steep rocky banks created by former gravel mining operations.
- Removed nearly 60 acres of invasive species such as Scotch broom and English ivy.
- Planted 75,000 native trees and shrubs.
- Constructed trails and interpretive facilities for public enjoyment of the area.

The project involved a wide variety of partners, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who were major funders at 5 million and 1.6 million dollars, respectively; the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board; U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; Lane County; local schools and nonprofits; and many community volunteers.

For more information about the Delta Ponds project and the award, please contact Lauri Holts, Natural Resources Coordinator at 541-682-4925 or lauri.j.holts@ci.eugene.or.us.